

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01462 241121Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 232005Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9249
INFO ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1462

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, AR, BR, CI
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION POLICY

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 1140 (NOTAL), (B) BUENOS AIRES 1390,
(C) BUENOS AIRES 1427

1. AT END OF MEETING TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF UNRELATED PENDING
MATTERS, RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY SCIENCE OFFICIAL (AMB.
FIGUERERO) TOLD S&T COUNSELOR HE HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH
"SAFEGUARDS" DEVELOPMENTS.

2. RE ARGENTINE ATTITUDE ON BRAZIL-FRG CONTROVERSY, HE NOTED
THAT IT WAS OF TWO MINDS. ON ONE HAND, ARGENTINA DID NOT RPT NOT
WANT BRAZIL TO ACQUIRE AN ENRICHING CAPABILITY, ON THE OTHER IT
HAD TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTERESTS. FIGUERERO THOUGHT THEY (BRAZIL-
IANS) WERE TRYING ALL OVER TO FIND ALTERNATE SOURCES, EVEN ISRAEL
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01462 241121Z

AND OTHERS. HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

3. FIGUERERO DENIED ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH BRAZILIANS, OTHER THAN
OVER JOINT OPPOSITION TO (U.S.) PRESSURE. HE VOLUNTEERED
STATEMENT THAT ARGENTINA COULD NOT RPT NOT ADHERE TO NPT UNLESS
BOTH BRAZIL AND CHILE DID THE SAME. HE TRIED TO CONVEY SENTIMENT
THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT HURRY (ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CONVINCING

IN SO DOING).

4. S&T COUNSELOR NOTED THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS VERY SERIOUS IN HIS CONCERN OVER NONPROLIFERATION. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THERE WAS NO RPT NO GOOD REASON FOR BRAZIL AND CHILE NOT RPT NOT TO JOIN ARGENTINA IN ADHERING TO NPT.

5. S&T COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED NEW CANADIAN POLICY. FIGUERERO STATED THAT AGREEMENT WITH CANADA (EMBALSE CONTRACT PRESUMABLY) HAD BEEN SIGNED. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT SAFEGUARDS REQUIRED BY CANADA WERE MORE SEVERE THAN THOSE REQUIRED BY NPT.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOA IS INVOLVED WITH INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND THAT SOMETHING MUST BE COOKING. ATTEMPT TO GET BRAZIL AND CHILE TO JOIN IT IN ADHERING TO NPT SEEMS INEVITABLE, THOUGH THERE MAY WELL BE OTHER ASPECTS OF ARGENTINE NEGOTIATING POSITION.
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